



Department of Energy

Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393

May 13, 2010

SUBJECT: Notice of Scoping – Wellford Landfill Methane and Greenhouse Gas-to-Energy project, Spartanburg County, South Carolina (DOE/EA-1762)

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to Spartanburg County, South Carolina (the County). The County is proposing to use Federal and cost-share funds construct and operate a landfill gas-to-energy project at the Wellford Landfill. This project would include a new methane gas line from the Wellford County Landfill to the Milliken Dewey Plant in Spartanburg County, South Carolina. Details of the proposed project and its location are contained in the attachment. Pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provision of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and DOE's implementing procedures for compliance with NEPA (10 CFR 1021). DOE is preparing a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to:

- Identify any adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided should this proposed project be implemented.
- Evaluate viable alternatives to the proposed project.
- Describe the relationship between local short-term uses of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity.
- Characterize any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources that would be involved should this proposed project be implemented.

Probable Environmental Effects/Issues Scoped for the Environmental Assessment

The EA will describe and analyze any potential impacts on the environment that would be caused by the project and will identify possible mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate those impacts that may result to:

- Land Use
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Noise and Odor
- Safety and Occupational Health
- Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice
- Utilities
- Traffic and Transportation
- Aesthetics
- Waste Management and Hazardous Materials
- Water Resources



Development of a Reasonable Range of Alternatives

DOE is required to consider a reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed action during an environmental review. The definition of alternatives is governed by the "rule of reason." An EA must consider a reasonable range of options that could accomplish the agency's purpose and need and reduce environmental effects. Reasonable alternatives are those that may be feasibly carried out based on environmental, technical, and economic factors.

The No Action Alternative will be addressed. The need for project redesign, or a project alternative, will be determined during the course of environmental review.

Public Scoping

The DOE will make this letter available to all interested federal, state, and local agencies to provide input on issues to be addressed in the EA. Agencies are invited to identify the issues, within their statutory responsibilities that should be considered in the EA. The general public is also invited to submit comments on the scope of the EA.

No formal public scoping meeting is currently planned for this project. This letter as well as the draft EA, when it is available, will be posted in the DOE Golden Field Office online reading room: http://www.eere.energy.gov/golden/Reading_Room.aspx.

The DOE Golden Field Office welcomes your input throughout our NEPA process. Please provide any comments on this scoping letter on or before June 7, 2010 to:

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We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Steve Blazek
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment

Attachment

Wellford Landfill Methane and Greenhouse Gas-to-Energy Proposed Project Description and Location

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide up to \$2.2 million to Spartanburg County, South Carolina. The DOE funding for this proposed project would be paid for by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The County proposes to design, permit, construct, operate, and maintain a landfill gas-to-energy project to use methane gas generated at the county's landfill at 595 Little Mountain Road in Wellford, South Carolina. This landfill is the primary solid waste management facility for the County and currently has an existing landfill-to-gas (LFG) pipe network. A proposed 6.6-mile-long underground landfill gas transmission pipeline running from the Wellford Landfill to the Milliken Dewey Plant would be constructed by the County and would be located predominately within the existing road right-of-way between the two locations.

The project proposed by the County is to construct:

- Gas Collection System
- Landfill Gas Treatment and Pressurization
- Landfill Gas Transmission Line

The **Gas Collection System** would be located on the Wellford Landfill site and would consist of extraction wells, headers, and internal pipes. The landfill has five phases and additional infrastructure would be added to each phase. Phases I and II currently have 10 wells approximately 24 feet deep. Twenty-two wells would be added to this phase, each 35 feet deep. Phases III and IV of the landfill currently have 18 wells, ranging from 49 feet to 19 feet deep. An additional 16 wells are proposed to be added in this phase, each 35 feet deep. Phase V currently has 15 wells ranging in depth from 44 feet to 12 feet. These wells are currently acting as passive vents and would be connected to the Gas Collection System during construction, with the exception of some of the shallower wells. An additional 36 wells are proposed in Phase V. These wells would range from 90 feet to 30 feet in depth.

The existing LFG pipe network at the Wellford Landfill would remain in place as is and kept independent of the new piping. This would be done to differentiate the LFG flows from the existing, older wells and the new wells.

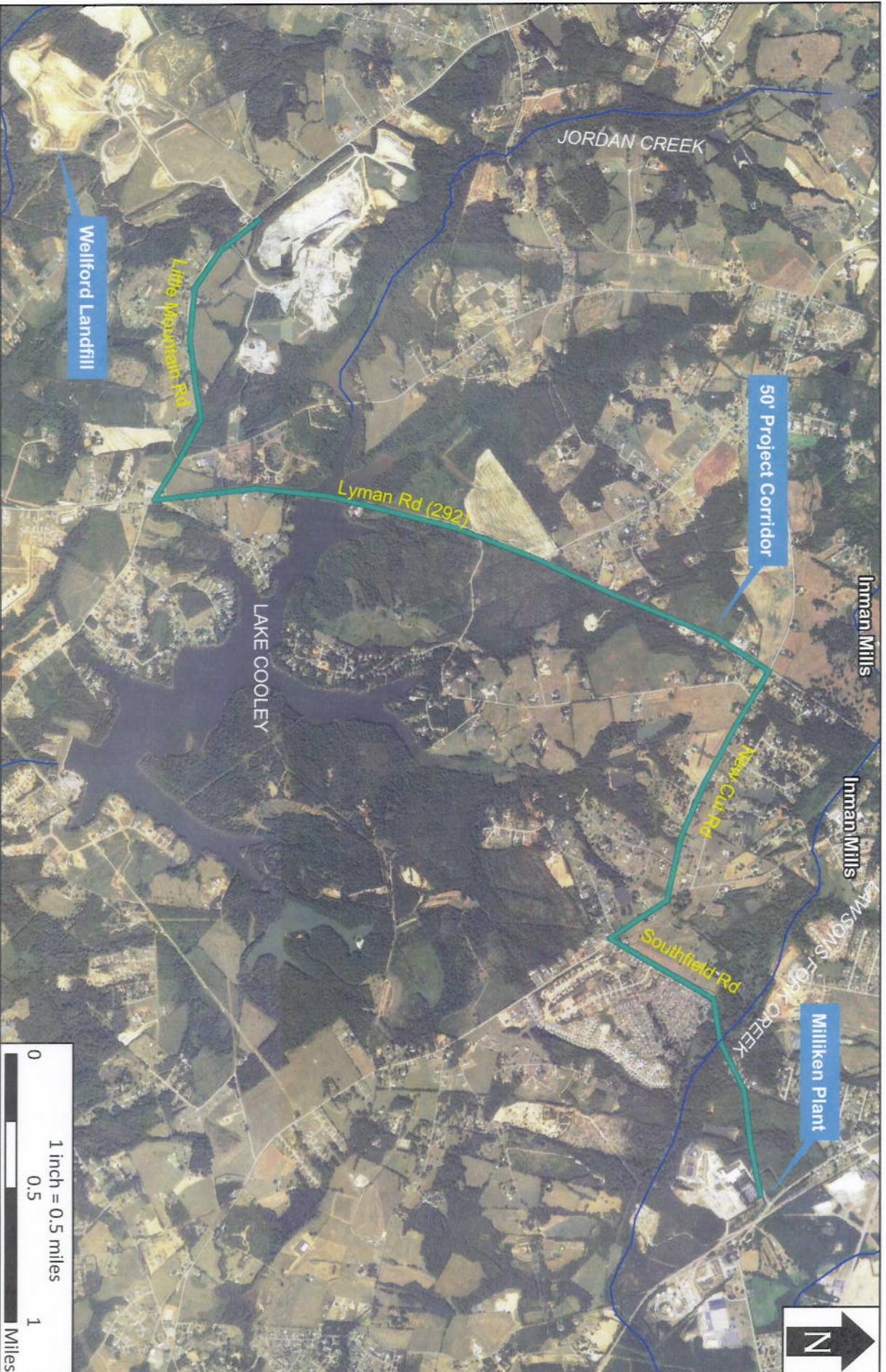
The **Landfill Gas Treatment and Pressurization** system would treat and compress the collected gas to 34 pounds per square inch (psi) to send it to the gas transmission line and on to the Milliken plant. This system would be located at the Wellford Landfill, adjacent to the existing blower flare station.

The **Landfill Gas Transmission Line** would begin at the Wellford Landfill on the discharge end of the gas treatment and pressurization station and would end 6.6 miles away at the Milliken Dewey Plant in Inman, SC. The proposed routing would begin at the landfill's western terminus

and parallel Little Mountain Road for approximately 1.1 miles to Inman Road; it would follow Inman Road north for 2.4 miles; it would head east, following New Cut Road for approximately 1.2 miles; it would head northeast following Southfield Road for 1.1 miles; the pipeline would then cross into the Milliken property, follow Southfield Road Extension and tie into the proposed boiler station located on the Milliken plant site.

The gas transmission line would be constructed using a combination of trenching and directional drilling methods to avoid roads, streams, and lake crossings. Trenches would be backfilled and revegetated. Crossings of waters and tributaries of the U.S. and wetlands would be directionally drilled beneath the waters and wetlands while maintaining a minimum of 100 feet from edge of the waters and wetlands to minimize impacts.

A map of the pipeline route is attached.



Proposed Project Corridor

Exhibit 1